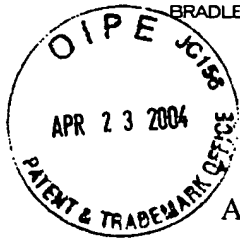


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April 23, 2004

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Application Serial Number: 10/685,914
Filed: October 15, 2003
Inventor: Copeland
Group Art Unit: Not Yet Known
Examiner: Not Yet Known
Attorney Docket Number:

Via Express Mail No. EV302016386US

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

The enclosed Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

X under 37 CFR 1.97(b), being before the mailing date of the first office action on the merits

_____ under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either a:
Certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or
a \$240.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or
(After the CFR 1.97(b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)

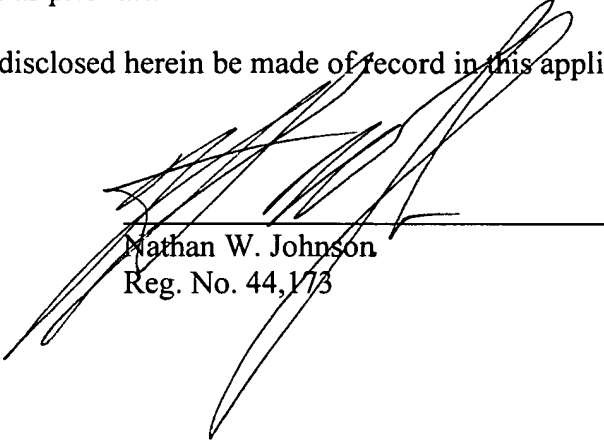
_____ under 37 CFR 1.97(d) together with a:
Certification under 37 CFR 1.97(e), and
a petition under 37 CFR 1.97(d)(2)(ii), and
a \$130.00 petition fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i)(1).
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X Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449-Information Disclosure Statement for which there may or may not be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

The filing of the IDS is not representation that the undersigned possesses any personal knowledge of the contents of each prior art reference listed, or that the documents are citable as prior art.

Applicant by submitting the above references taken alone or in combination neither represents nor admits that such references anticipate or render obvious the present invention. Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested. Applicant accordingly reserves the right to challenge any reference to the submitted and identified documents as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application



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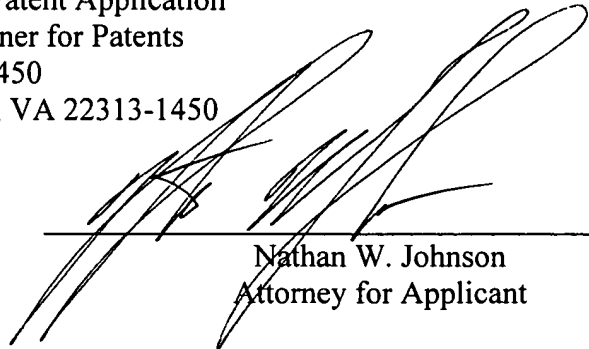


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I hereby certify that this letter (3 pages) and an Information Disclosure Statement (2 pages) are enclosed and are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV302016386US Post Office to Addressee, in an envelope addressed to:

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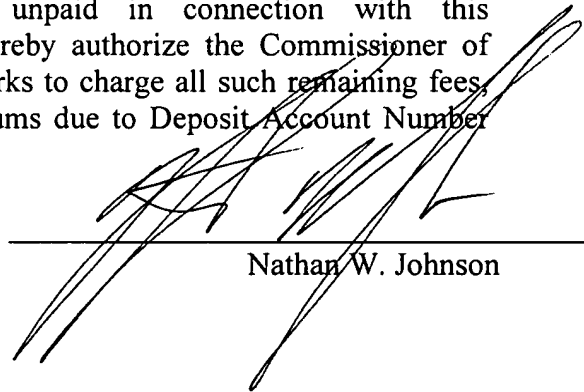
Nathan W. Johnson
Attorney for Applicant

April 23, 2004

Date of signature

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If, after processing the enclosed items, any charges, fees, or sums due remain unpaid in connection with this correspondence, I hereby authorize the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to charge all such remaining fees, charges, and other sums due to Deposit Account Number 50-0954.



Nathan W. Johnson



PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Sheet 1 of 2**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/685,914
Filing Date	October 15, 2003
First Named Inventor	Copeland
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 784400	03-07-1905	F. F. Howe	
		US- 1818493	08-11-1931	A. T. McWane	
		US- 2201372	05-21-1940	E. A. Miller	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

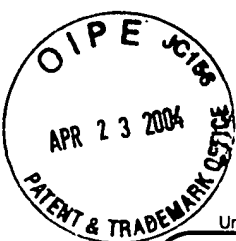
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
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	N	JP-5229625-A	03-1977			

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Sheet	2	of	2
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Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number ² -Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5335946	08-09-1994	L. G. Dent	
		US- 5340169	08-23-1994	K. Hoffman	
		US- 5398930	03-21-1995	T. D. Hunter	
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		US- 5992905	11-30-1999	H. Kennedy, Jr.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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